

TRIBUTE TO HARRIS WOFFORD

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to extend my best wishes to former Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford as he celebrates his 90th birthday this April 9. Harris is a close friend and trusted adviser, and I would like to take this time to not only wish him the best on this milestone, but to reflect upon his remarkable life. His story is interwoven into the fabric of our Nation; from a young boy campaigning for Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression, to a pilot defending freedom in World War II; from a trusted adviser to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and President John F. Kennedy during the civil rights movement; to a participant in the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery; from a peace activist arrested in protest of police brutality during the 1968 Democratic National Convention; to a Senator championing universal healthcare in the 1990s. The story of Harris Wofford is the story of the steady march of equality and progress. He answered President Kennedy's call on a cold inaugural day in 1961 to "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

Harris's potential for leadership was evident early in high school amidst the chaos of World War II when he founded the Student Federalists, an organization which advocated for a united world government in order to bring about lasting peace. By the time he turned 18, the organization had grown to over 1,000 members in 30 chapters and led *Newsweek* to predict that the intrepid young man would one day rise to be President. He went on to graduate from the University of Chicago in 1948 and then enrolled in Howard University Law School, finishing his education with a degree from Yale Law School in 1954, just as the civil rights movement was truly picking up momentum.

In 1957, Harris joined the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights as a legal assistant to Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, the president of Notre Dame University. When Senator John Kennedy ran for President in 1960, he was asked to join the campaign as a civil rights coordinator. It was during that close election that Harris made one of his most lasting contributions to American history. In October 1960, Dr. King was arrested in Georgia while battling segregation, and in those tense hours after his arrest, Harris Wofford suggested to Sargent Shriver that Kennedy call Dr. King's wife, Coretta Scott King, and offer his support. Kennedy made the call despite the political risk. The news of the Democratic candidate for President—the nominee of a party that still held deep roots in the Jim Crow South—calling the wife of Dr. King was powerful and helped sway many African-American voters to Kennedy, which some feel decided the election.

After the election, Harris Wofford joined the Kennedy Administration as

special assistant to the President for civil rights and the chairman of the Subcabinet group on civil rights. He helped Shriver in the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, and, as was common for him, he not only advocated for the idea, but also served as the director of operations in Ethiopia and the organization's special representative to Africa. In 1964, he was named associate director of the Peace Corps.

He reentered the world of academia in 1966 as president of the State University of New York at Old Westbury. His career brought him to Pennsylvania as president of Bryn Mawr College in 1970. Later he practiced law in Philadelphia. After 16 years in Pennsylvania, he was asked to reenter the political world in June 1986 as chairman of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party. When my father was elected Governor of Pennsylvania that year, he asked Harris Wofford to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry for the Commonwealth. In May 1991, after the tragic death of Senator John Heinz in a plane crash, my father appointed Harris Wofford to fill the vacancy until a special election could be held. After winning a surprise victory in the special election under the banner of universal healthcare, Senator Wofford used his time in the Senate to foster the development of national service and to push for health insurance. He was a key sponsor in the establishment of the Corporation for National and Community Service and worked closely with Representative JOHN LEWIS to establish Martin Luther King, Jr., Day as a National Day of Service.

Although Senator Wofford was defeated in his reelection attempt in 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed him as the chief executive officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, CNCS. His lifelong advocacy for national and community service made him an ideal choice to lead the CNCS into an influential organization, and, under his leadership, the organization's volunteer branches grew to over 50,000 members. After leaving the CNCS in 2001, he continued his dedication to public service and civil rights through his work on the boards of the America's Promise Alliance, Malaria No More, Youth Service America, the Points of Light Foundation, and as a trustee of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Non-Violent Social Change.

Throughout his life, Harris Wofford has left an indelible mark on our Nation's history and the lives of those who have had the privilege to work with him. When I took the oath of office for the U.S. Senate in 2007 to fill the seat he once held, I was honored and humbled to have him with me at the ceremony. For over 90 years, he has stood for courage, idealism, and a steadfast defense of equal rights for all Americans. As we look back on the growth of community service and the march of civil rights in our Nation's

history, we see the steady, guiding hand of Harris Wofford. I am grateful for his experienced counsel and support on the many issues facing our Nation today, and I am pleased that he shows no signs of slowing down. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a grateful Nation, I am pleased to once again wish Harris Wofford a happy birthday and many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING CARL ALLEN KOONTZ

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, on the eve of what would have been his 27th birthday, I rise to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Howard County, IN, deputy Carl Koontz. Dedicated, loyal, and, above all, compassionate to those in need, Deputy Koontz served with the Howard County Sheriff's Department for nearly 3 years.

A native of Kokomo, IN, and a graduate of Western High School and Indiana University Kokomo, Carl served his community with dedication as a corrections officer prior to attending the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and achieving his dream of becoming a sheriff's deputy. Those who served alongside Deputy Koontz describe him as selfless, dedicated, and determined. A respected friend, leader, and mentor, he touched the lives of all who had the privilege to know him, including the students and staff of the Northwestern School Corporation, where he served as a school resource officer.

On March 20, 2016, while serving a search warrant, Deputy Koontz and Sergeant Jordan Buckley were shot in the line of duty. We mourn the loss of Deputy Koontz, who succumbed to his injuries, and we wish Sergeant Buckley a quick recovery. Every day, our law enforcement professionals and first responders get up, go to work, and put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. That is exactly what Deputy Koontz, Sergeant Buckley, and their fellow officers were doing in the early hours of that Sunday morning—their job. They put their lives on the line so that we have the chance to live in safety, and we are eternally grateful.

Deputy Koontz is survived and deeply missed by his wife, Kassie; son, Noah; parents, Allen and Jackie; sister, Alice; grandparents, Ann and Allen Koontz and Alice and Carl Durham, as well as the entire Koontz and Floyd family and the Howard County Sheriff's Department. No words or sentiment can adequately express our sadness and grief. As a community, we can only offer our prayers, our support, and our continued commitment to honor his service.

Deputy Koontz loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the citizens of Howard County. Although he would not have considered himself a hero, Deputy Koontz demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with compassion, honor, courage, and